



Sunriver Books & Music
January 2014
Newsletter
Sunriverbooks.com
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Happy New Year!

May 2014 Bring Happiness and Good Health to all!

January 11th at 5:00 PM we are going to do something entirely different. I hope you will bear with me while I explain a little bit of background. Publishing and bookselling have undergone some rather dramatic changes over the past decade. Some good, some not so good. A decade ago there were bricks and mortar bookstores all over the USA. No longer, in this entire great land of ours there are fewer than 2,000 Independent Bookstores. Rather than feeling gloomy, booksellers are hopeful that the future will be brighter. I had the pleasure of listening to Malcom Gladwell, author of *David and Goliath*, in Kansas City in 2013. He was gung ho about the future of Independent Bookstores in the USA, citing many of the bookstores he has enjoyed visiting and waxing poetic on the attributes that make them special. Gladwell contends that what will save Independent Bookstores is the quality and diversity of their collections. He maintains their strength is in the fact that their shelves are filled with books that are curated, selected with care by their owners reflecting the differences in their reading habits. The booksellers are familiar with the books they carry and are able to convey their enthusiasm for the stories therein. I think he is right. Whenever we traveled we always looked for Independent Bookstores because we enjoyed seeing the way each bookstore had different selections, allowing us to become acquainted with the works of different authors with excellent writing. We hope this is true of our bookstore; we try very hard to have the best selections of books that reflect those stories and authors who find resonance with us. That is except for one section of our bookstore, more on that later. Publishing is also under siege. Between reduced revenue from e-readers and an economic rollercoaster over the past few years, publishing has faced challenges that affect authors. The result is that it is harder for a debut author to find a publisher and many mid-list authors have lost their publishers. At the same time, it is becoming easier for authors to self-publish their books.

Coming back to that one section of the store that is not curated, we have a consignment area for self-published authors. Many people have a story that they feel strongly they want to tell. We did not want to set ourselves up as judges on the merit of their stories. Instead, with a few exceptions, we allow most authors the ability to have access to the consignment section of the store; the reader is the judge of the stories. Some may resonate with you, based on what you like to read, while others may not. This part of our bookstore is not curated; it includes a variety of topics from mysteries, to fiction, to limericks, to many other subjects. There are a few limitations on subject matter; otherwise the books are a cornucopia of subjects, genres, and writing styles. The consignment area allows some self-published authors access to our community of readers. Some of the selections are quite interesting, such as Keith Thye's *Moto Raid* about his motorcycle journey across Africa. Les Joslin wrote *Uncle Sam's Cabins*, a very useful book on unique places to stay, he plans be one of the featured authors for the event. Many of the books in are written by Oregon authors.

Our January event will be a celebration of the diversity of Oregon authors, focusing on self-published works, and be an opportunity to hear from several of them at one time. Each author will speak briefly about his or her story allowing you to get to know them and their subjects. Oregon has a vibrant community of authors; this is one part of that group. And it is a lot of fun to hear from several new authors at an event, we enjoy this format at bookseller's events and have a great time. So we are going to try sharing that type of experience with our community and at the same time highlight a few of your friends and neighbor's stories. It is a faster moving format than our usual author events, as each author will speak briefly giving you a snapshot of their book, then we move on to the next. Some of the authors scheduled to attend are Les Joslin author of *Uncle Sam's Cabin*, Marty Beaudet author of the mystery novel *Senseless Confidential*, and John Trudel author of *Soft Target*, 3rd in his mystery series. Check our website, sunriverbooks.com for a list of the authors appearing in January.

It should be fun, we hope you join us. There will be refreshments and drawings for door prizes.

Upcoming Author Appearances

Saturday February 15th 2014 at 5:00 PM *Hall of Secrets* by Cate Campbell
Saturday March 15th 2014 *The Free* by Willy Vlautin
Saturday March 29th 2013 at 5:00 PM *Worthy Brown's Daughter* by Phillip Margolin
Saturday April 12th 2014 at 5:00 PM *The Dismal Science* by Peter Mountford
Saturday May 10th 2014 at 5:00 PM *Oregon For The Curious* by William Sullivan
Saturday May 17th 2014 at 5:00 PM *The Three Emperors* by William Dietrich

Join us to enjoy these fabulous authors! Hearing an author speak clarifies and enriches the reading experience. Author readings are free with refreshments served and drawings for prizes. Call or e-mail Sunriver Books & Music to attend and be entered in the prize drawings. Space may be limited for some events. Check our web site, Sunriverbooks.com, for changes and additions.

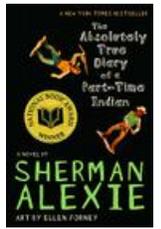
The Votes are in for our Book Clubs Favorites of 2013! Here are the Winners.

Fiction Book Club

1. **Running the Rift** by Naomi Benaron. Jean Patrick Nkuba wants to trust his father's words, that Hutu and Tutsi can live in peace. Death comes for Jean Patrick's father unexpectedly, leaving the family bereft in a climate of escalating tribal tensions with the dream of peace fading fast. Jean Patrick wants to run; he has legs that fly and hopes for Olympic Gold. But he is a Tutsi, the wrong tribe, and Rwanda is entering a time of violence and evil. Benaron managed the formidable accomplishment of writing a beautiful, haunting story of family, of a young boy's coming of age, of the power of striving to be the best, and of redemption. It is a hopeful story despite the rampaging grim reaper that defiled Rwanda.



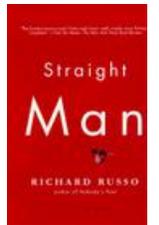
2. One of the most banned books in the US, winner of the National Book Award, **The Absolutely True Diary of a Part Time Indian** by Sherman Alexie. Arnold Spirit, known as Junior, decides not to live down to the expectations of those around him but reach for all he can be. Growing up on the Spokane Reservation he is surrounded by alcoholism and grinding poverty. Junior is a bright kid; he chooses to go to the white school, off the reservation. This is not an easy choice or logistically practical. Junior is not a robust kid; he was born with water on the brain and has been a target for bullies all his life. Expecting to be at best isolated and at worst tormented; instead he finds friends from the geeky nerds to the basketball team and the in crowd. Sherman Alexie is an award winning author of national reputation, one of the strongest and most talented voices in Native American fiction today. He grew up on the Spokane Reservation, suffered the same physical condition as his fictional character, and went off the reservation to the same school. In a 2011 Wall Street Journal essay he commented on the banning of **The Absolutely True Diary of a Part Time Indian**: saying he didn't write to protect the readers. "[It's far too late for that.](#)" Alexie explained. "I write to give them weapons -- in the form of words and ideas -- that will help them fight their monsters." Sherman Alexie is an exceedingly entertaining speaker. He will appear Friday January 24th at 7:00 PM at the Bend High School Auditorium as part of the Deschutes County Library's Author! Author! Series. For tickets see Richard Jenkins. Do not miss the opportunity to hear this mega talented author, one of the best and brightest of his time.



3. **Beautiful Ruins** by Jess Walter is absolutely brilliant. Pasquale Tursi dreams of turning their sleepy little inn into a tourist destination for Americans. Nestled at the edge of Italy's Cinque Terre, his village is tiny, remote, and difficult to reach. His far-fetched dream seems to be coming true when a beautiful blond movie actress arrives. It is 1962 and two Titans are setting the world aflame with their passion while portraying another pair of doomed lovers, Anthony and Cleopatra. Pasquale's blond might douse the flames of Burton and Taylor's red hot love affair. Fast forward to present day Hollywood where a young screenwriter is trying to pitch a storyline to legendary producer Michael Deane's assistant. Deane's past is about to catch up with him as Pasquale travels from Italy to Hollywood in search of the actress who changed everything so long ago.



4. **Straight Man** by Richard Russo. William Henry Devereux Jr. is a difficult man, reluctant to follow the path trod by others, and downright dismissive of rules and those who wield them. Hank failed to live up to his earlier promise, as he approaches his half century he is the interim chair of the English Department in a cash strapped Pennsylvania university where he amuses himself by goading his fellow academics into inappropriate and sometimes violent reactions. Possibly what annoys his fellow professors most is his refusal to become involved in university politics, or share their fears over their diminishing futures. Wickedly funny yet nuanced with deeper meaning.

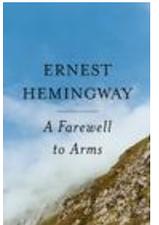


Classics Book Club

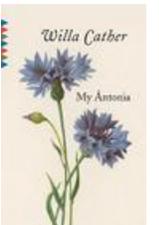
1. **Pride and Prejudice** by Jane Austen. Is there a sprightlier opening than the beginning lines of this time treasured novel? "*It is a truth universally acknowledged that a single man in possession of a good fortune, must be in want of a wife.*" **Pride and Prejudice** is considered one of the most entertaining and romantic of stories. Perhaps it is much more, was Jane Austen also a feminist? This is the story of a family, the burdens of having daughters instead of sons, and the options open to women of the era. The Bennett family has five daughters, the family home and estate will pass on the death of the father to the next male heir in line, a rather tiresome clergyman. If the daughters have not found suitable husbands, they will be penniless and at the mercy of their distant relative, a precarious financial position indeed.



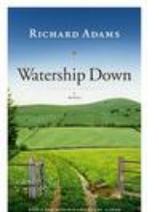
2. **A Farewell To Arms** by Ernest Hemingway. Lieutenant Frederic Henry serves as an ambulance driver on the Italian Front. Nurse Catherine Barkley catches his fancy; their affair is overshadowed by the backdrop of war. Ernest Hemingway served during WWI as an ambulance driver on the Italian Front. He was severely wounded and fell madly in love with a nurse. Hemingway draws the truth from these emotionally charged experiences for his fiction, painting a vivid picture of the raw bleakness of war and the sometimes staggering intensity of love.



3. **My Antonia** by Willa Cather. Set in Nebraska, the story revolves around the hardscrabble existence of immigrant farmers in the vast Midwestern plains. Jim Burden, our narrator, is an orphan sent to live on his grandparent's farm when he encounters Antonia, the spirited daughter of immigrant farmers. The story follows their trials and tribulations. It is a celebration of the fire and spirit that settled this land through hard work and struggle.



4. **Watership Down** by Richard Adams. Hazel and his brother Fiver, the seer, try to lead the clan away from danger. Bigwig, Dandelion and Bluebell believing in Fiver's vision follow him on an arduous journey to their new home. The story is set in the Berkshires with a colony of rabbits. This is not just a cuddly bunny tale; it reflects classic struggles and is told with an almost mythical manner. There is drama, bravery, and evil, all the main ingredients for a great story.



Non-Fiction Book Club

1. ***The Short Nights of the Shadow Catcher; the Epic Life and Immortal Photographs of Edward Curtis*** by Timothy Egan. Edward Curtis aimed his lens and showed the world a clear vision of Native Americans. He showed us an old woman, the daughter of a Chief, living in squalor taunted by rock throwing white boys south of Seattle. His photography was art, his pictures just as powerful as any painting. Curtis changed public perception of Native Americans, not so many years after official practices that could be called genocide, showing us a culture and a people deserving respect.

2. ***The Swerve*** by Stephen Greenblatt, winner of both the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award. Poggio Bracciolini's discovery of the lost manuscript of "***On the Nature Of Things***" by Lucretius, a manuscript that had been lost to the world for a thousand years, was hugely influential to the Renaissance. This was one of the most important discoveries of its age with far reaching consequences. Lucretius' powerful poem had a profound impact on many of the finest minds of their times including Galileo, Darwin, Montaigne, and Thomas Jefferson.

3. ***Drift*** by Rachel Maddow. America seems to have drifted away from the ideal, or goal, of a peaceful nation to a country with an agenda of policing the world putting us in a perpetual state of war. Maddow is ill at ease with the way we are outsourcing the fighting, employing outside contractors who carry weapons in the name of the USA without the oversight of regular military. She makes an interesting point that showing the public their individual cost might bring us to realize the economic burden of armed conflict and question more stridently the policy of constant war that has plagued both major political parties.

4. ***The Greater Journey: Americans in Paris*** by David McCullough uses Paris as a focal point for what was at the time the center of arts, architecture, science and political thought. Our best and brightest made the pilgrimage to Paris from 1830 to 1900. Mostly single men, but women and families also traveled to the City of Light. Oliver Wendell Holmes, Charles Sumner, Elizabeth Blackwell, James Fenimore Cooper, and Samuel Morse all traveled to Paris, to learn, to expand their horizons. The city offered the inspiration, art, and exposure to new ideas.

Mystery Book Club

1. ***Gone Girl*** by Gillian Flynn. Diabolically devious plotting and engaging writing will keep you guessing. Amy disappears on her 5th wedding anniversary, leaving her handsome husband with his slow southern charm to face the suspicions of police and media. Amy was a beautiful woman, bright and charming. She hated the move from New York to Missouri but times are tough and Nick insisted on returning to his small hometown to help his sister with their ailing parents. Now lovely Amy is gone and the story Nick tells just does not ring true. Can this handsome southern gentleman be a wife killer? It is a New York Times Bestseller, has been featured on NPR, and is a book club favorite.

2. ***The Yard*** by Alex Grecian. Set in 1889, London is reeling from the horrific killing spree of Jack the Ripper. The Metropolitan Police's failure to catch the killer is followed by the creation of Scotland Yard's Murder Squad, 12 men to solve the murders in the city. A detective is killed, his body stuffed in a trunk. The newest member of the squad, Detective Inspector Walter Day, is charged with finding the murderer. Dr. Kingsley, a brilliant forensic pathologist, helps the young man navigate the complex case.

3. ***The Indian Bride*** by Karin Fossum. Gunder Jomann is a big man, solid. He sells agricultural equipment and makes a good living, enough to afford a comfortable home. But he is not considered handsome and is a bit slow. Gunder has reached middle age with his only close relationship being his sister Marie. She gives him a book with vibrant pictures of India. Maybe the Norwegian women find him slow, but perhaps an Indian woman would share her life with him. He goes to India to find a bride. India is vast and teeming, very overwhelming but exciting for Gunder. Poona sees the kindness in this big Norwegian man. A relationship blossoms, she travels to Norway to be Gunder's bride. Inspector Sejer becomes involved as he tries to discover who killed the ***Indian Bride***.

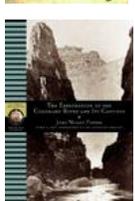
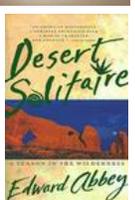
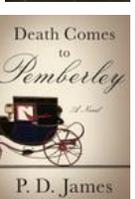
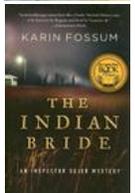
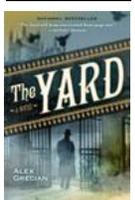
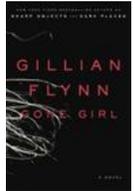
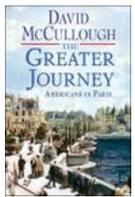
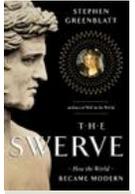
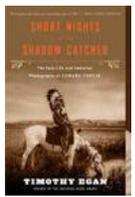
4. ***Death Comes to Pemberley*** by P.D. James recreates the world of ***Pride and Prejudice*** to perfection. The story is set six years after the marriage of Elizabeth and Mr. Darcy. They have two young sons and the degree of matrimonial happiness one expected for them. As the story opens, the Bingleys and the Darcys are dining together when a coach comes careening up the drive containing a hysterical Lydia (is there any other kind?). There has been a murder at Pemberley and of course the feckless Mr. Wickham is involved.

Travel Essay Book Club

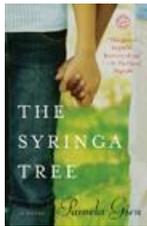
1. ***A Moveable Feast*** by Ernest Hemingway. This is the absolutely perfect companion book to ***The Paris Wife***. Read Hemingway's own words about their time in the glittering city. He describes his walks around the city of light, his relationships with Gertrude Stein, Ezra Pound, and the Fitzgerald's, and the intensity of his writing life. He writes of his time with Hadley and the image of a young couple, frisky and full of possibility is so clear. This short memoir shows what great writing can do; Hemingway can make you step right into the page with him and walk along in the Paris rain, heading for the warmth and glow of a favorite café.

2. ***Desert Solitaire*** by Edward Abbey. He lived life large, he didn't do things in half measure, he lived with passion. ***Desert Solitaire*** is a fascinating account of Abbey's time as a ranger at Arches National Park, a glimpse into this complicated man. One of my favorite Edward Abbey quotes is a perfect complement to the book: "***Wilderness is not a luxury but a necessity of the human spirit.***"

3. ***The Exploration of the Colorado River and Its Canyons*** by John Wesley Powell. In 1869 Powell a Civil War hero who lost his arm at the battle of Shiloh set off into the unknown. He would be the first white man to run the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon. It had to be a fearsome prospect. Back in 1869 the river ran wild and free, unfettered by dams that drained its ferocious power. The rapids deep below the canyon walls would have roared, the sound carrying back to the expedition as a challenge. Powell's goal was to explore the Canyon and map this last uncharted bit of the west. It is an amazing journey.



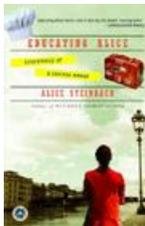
January 2014 Book Clubs.



January 6th the Fiction Book Club discusses **The Syringa Tree** by Pamela Gien, a moving and powerful story about the effects of apartheid in South Africa told through the eyes of a six year old white girl, Lizzy Grace. As the story opens in 1963, life is pretty good for Lizzy. Her home is in a modern, affluent suburb of Johannesburg. She is coddled by her nanny, Salimina, who lives in the separate servant's quarters to the rear of the home. The relationship between Salimina and Lizzy is intense and loving, having a profound effect on the little girl. Visits to her adoring grandparents on their remote farm give the child a different perspective on life and a lot of fun. Her father is a doctor and a kind man. He is bothered that the whites who come in the front door of his office with a waiting room while the blacks must come in the rear, it is an arrangement he finds distasteful. Complications ensue when Salimina has a child, Moliseng. The birth is attended by Lizzy's physician father, the authorities kept ignorant of the baby's arrival. Lizzy is delighted by the new baby, but there is danger if the authorities discover Moliseng. Salimina is only allowed a permit for herself as a servant to stay in the white district, her child is forbidden. Thus begins Lizzy's new occupation, she must help keep Moliseng hidden. If she is discovered, she will be taken away to the Soweto ghetto. Hide away, hide away, Moliseng must hide away good.



January 13th the Mystery Book Club discusses a book that caused quite a bit of controversy in 2013, **Cuckoo's Calling** by J. K. Rowling. She wrote the book using a pseudonym, Robert Galbraith, in a bid to separate her new book from her rather prominent name, giving it a chance to be evaluated on its own merits rather than as a J.K. Rowling story. It caused a stir when the true identity of the author was revealed. Needless to say, Ms. Rowling doesn't write for money, her wildly successful Harry Potter series fixed that issue. She is donating the proceeds from **Cuckoo's Calling** to charity. It seems to me that J.K. Rowling is trying to grow and stretch as an author. This is a sophisticated, mature work. If you are looking for fast pace and a high body count, this is not the book. If you enjoy well developed, quirky characters and a complex mystery, this is just the ticket. Rowling takes time to let the reader get to know her characters. Cuckoo is a mega-star super model who went off the balcony of her deluxe apartment falling to her death. John Bristow, her brother, an attorney, is not persuaded by the suicide ruling. He hires London PI Cormoran Strike to solve the mystery. Strike may have a somewhat flexible moral code, but he does have a sense of honor he prefers not to violate, and this case challenges his flexibility. It seems far too much like taking money when the outcome is foregone. Cuckoo ran with a fast crowd (think drugs and drink), had just participated in a very public fight with her bad boy boyfriend, and her family background was wealthy but dysfunctional. All the evidence and her background pointed to the gorgeous young woman leaping to her own demise. Strike is broke and Bristow is going to spend that detective fee money with someone so he begins his inquiry. These are interesting characters. Strike is a big bear of a man who came back from the fighting in Afghanistan missing half a leg; he far prefers using his powers of observation and deduction to strong arm tactics. Robin, Strike's new secretary, finds working for a PI more interesting than her prior secretarial postings. I liked the repartee and developing relationship between these two characters. It was also refreshing to have a detective who grows to respect the intelligence and skills of his secretary without any intention of seducing the young woman. Cuckoo is a lot more complex than her supermodel persona would indicate, Strike carefully peels back the layers of her façade revealing the striving young woman contained therein. The writing is excellent, the characters engaging, and the story very moody and complicated, all the elements of good mystery.



[Upcoming Book Club Dates for Monday Evenings at 6:30 PM](#)

February 3rd 2014 **Malice of Fortune** by Michael Ennis [Mystery Book Club](#)

February 10th 2014 **Molokai'I** by Alan Brennert [Fiction Book Club](#)

February 17th 2014 **Educating Alice** by Alice Steinbeck [Travel Essay Book Club](#)

March 3rd 2014 **Drood** by Dan Simmons [Fiction Book Club](#)

March 17th 2014 **Bleak House** by Charles Dickens [Classics Book Club](#)

March 24th 2014 **Solitary House** by Lynn Shepard [Mystery Book Club](#)

April 7th Fiction Book Club discusses **The Dog Stars** by Peter Heller Deschutes County Library's Novel Idea

April 14th 2014 In anticipation of World Book Night, **After the Funeral** by Agatha Christie [Mystery Book Club](#)

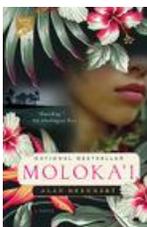
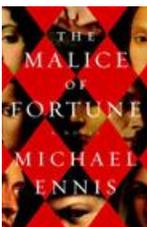
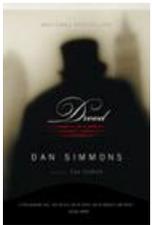
April 21 In anticipation of World Book Night, **Where'd You Go Bernadette** by Maria Semple [Fiction Book Club](#)

May 5th 2014 **My Beloved World** by Sonia Sotomayor [Non-Fiction Book Club](#)

May 12th 2014 **The Gods of Gotham** by Lindsay Faye [Mystery Book Club](#)

May 19th 2014 **The Rosetta Stone** by William Dietrich Author led discussion. [Fiction Book Club](#)

Comment on book clubs, look up future book clubs, or find more information at Sunriverbooks.com



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